

Amendments to the Specification

In paragraph [0015], please replace the paragraph with the following:

--- By “sulk” “bulk” or “bulk systems” it is meant materials not on the nanoscale size dimension.---

In paragraph [0026], please replace the paragraph with the following:

--- It is understood that in accordance with this invention the shell of the hollow nanocrystals ~~from~~form a continuous three dimensional domain adopting a three dimensional arrangement of atoms in contrast to molecular sheets such as found in graphitic, WS₂ or MoS₂ nanotubes and nanocages.---